

Atty. Dkt. No. EPI3007D
(071344-0304)
AF Expedited Procedure

REMARKS

Claims 28, 31-38, 43, 50, 54-63 and 69-77 and 79 are pending in this application following entry of the instant amendment. All other claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue cancelled subject matter in continuation or divisional applications claiming priority to the instant application.

Claims 28, 31 and 38 have been converted to independent status by incorporating all the limitations from the base claim. Claim 75 has been amended to correct an obvious error in claim dependency. Accordingly, the amendments raise no issue of new matter.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner in the last Office Action. All rejected claims have been cancelled and no outstanding issues remain in the case. Applicants have cancelled claim 78, which was rejected in the body of the Office Action but was indicated as allowable in the Office Action summary.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH (Written Description)

The rejection of claims 21, 24-27, 29, 30, 39, 40, 78, 80 and 101 as being allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement is respectfully traversed for the same reasons as described in the Amendment of March 15, 2004. However, the rejection is moot because claims 21, 24-27, 29, 30, 39, 40, 78, 80 and 101 are no longer pending in the case.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH (Enablement)

The rejection of claims 21, 24-27, 29, 30, 39, 40, 80 and 101 because the specification allegedly fails to enable these claims is respectfully traversed for the same reasons as described in the Amendment of March 15, 2004. However, the rejection is moot because claims 21, 24-27, 29, 30, 39, 40, 80 and 101 are no longer pending in the case.

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REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The rejection of claims 21, 24-27, 29, 30, 39 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully traversed for the same reasons as described in the Amendment of March 15, 2004. However, the rejection is moot because claims 21, 24-27, 29, 30, 39 and 40 are no longer pending in the case. .

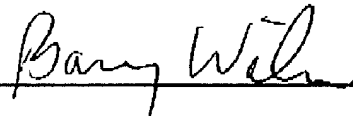
Because there are no issues that remain in the case, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance. The Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned by telephone to address is any other course of action is to be taken.

Respectfully submitted,

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